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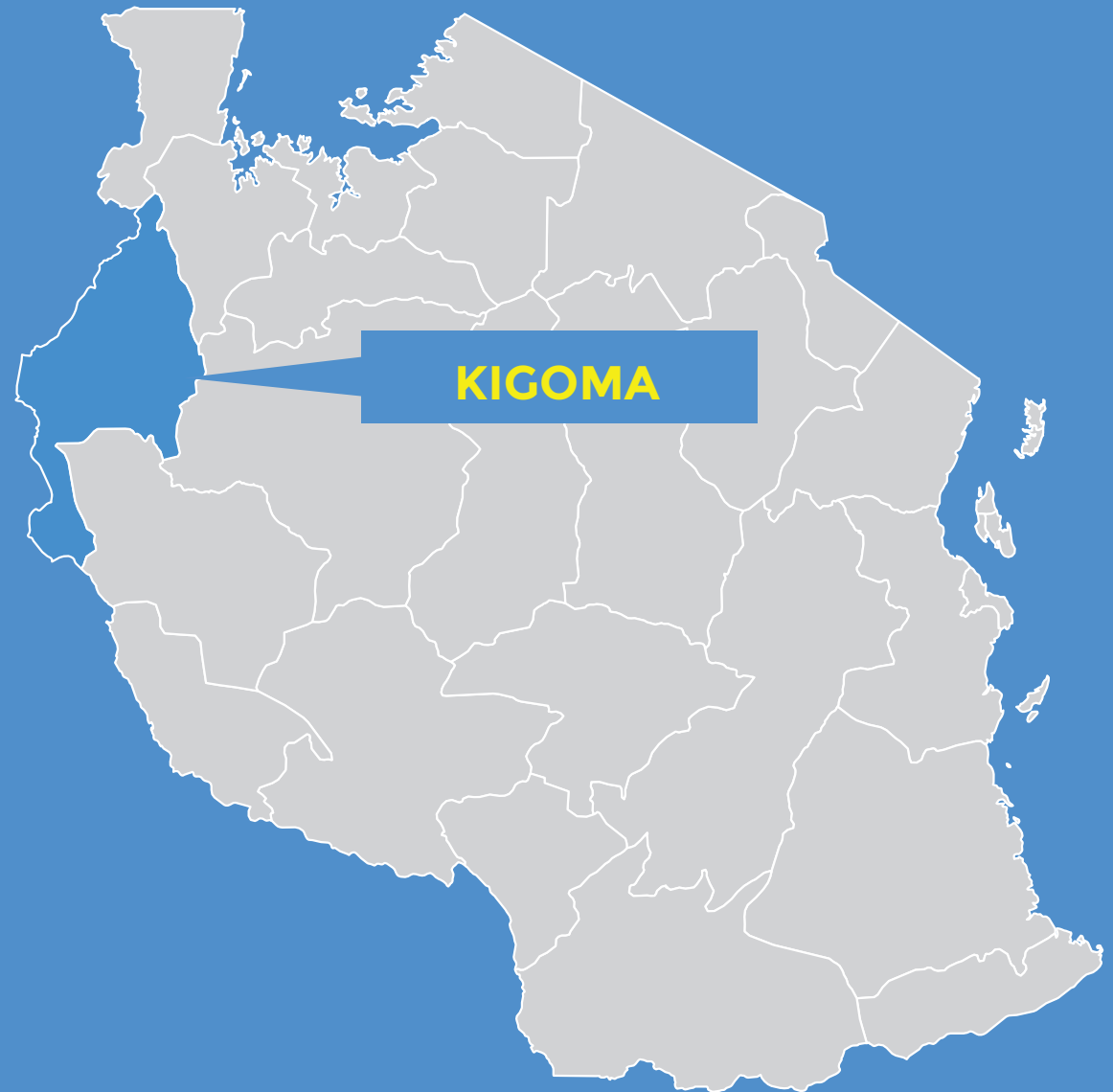
VOICES FROM THE FIELD



KIGOMA JOINT PROGRAMME

SPECIAL EDITION

APRIL 2020



INTRODUCTION BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

Kigoma Joint Programme has continued to compliment implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II) at sub national level by supporting developmental initiatives of Kigoma Region. This second special edition of Voices From the Field provides key highlights of UN's work in Kigoma and specifically brings out the voices of the host communities we are working with to implement the Global Goals and local development priorities.

The programme which was launched in September 2017 has brought together UN Tanzania, the Government of Tanzania, private Sector and local communities to apply a comprehensive approach in addressing a wide range of issues facing both the host commu-

nities, refugees and migrants in the region.

Since the last issue of the Voices From the Field, in March 2018, the programme has achieved remarkable progress in the field. I commend all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of this joint programme as well as Kigoma's regional and local authorities for their efforts on ensuring that the interventions can positively contribute to the improvement of the lives of the communities in Kigoma.

I would also like express my sincere gratitude to the Governments of Norway, Ireland, Sweden and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) who are currently funding the programme. With their generous sup-

port, we have been able to operationalize the programme and empower communities in Kigoma Region. The total budget of the programme (all 7 themes) is about USD 63million of which about USD 30.6million has been funded/committed so far. We still have a funding gap of USD 32.4 million and we welcome continued support from our current and other partners.

I also thank the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their sustained partnership and we remain committed to continuing working closely with them and all stakeholders to ensure that no one is left behind as we jointly implement the Sustainable Development Goals at sub-national level.

Zlatan Milišić

United Nations Resident
Coordinator in Tanzania

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) is an area-based UN joint programme that cuts across multiple sectors to improve development and human security in the Kigoma region. The Pro-

gramme comprises of 17 UN agencies working across seven outcomes which are Sustainable Energy and Environment (SEE); Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment (YWEE);

Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC); Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and Agriculture with a Focus on Developing Local Markets and Health + (Health, HIV and Nutrition).

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Kigoma region has been one of the poorest regions in the country and it carries the burden of a protracted refugee situation, hosting over 250,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). KJP applies a comprehensive approach to address a wide range of issues facing both the refugees and migrants in the region as well as the surrounding host communities. By supporting both, the host population and refugees and migrants, the programme forms part of the New Way of Working (NWOW), focusing on joint analysis, planning and interven-

tions to achieve common outcomes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities, and contributes to a future in which no one is left behind. The humanitarian-development nexus is supported by linking together the UN's existing response to refugees and migrants with an increased focus on developing the host communities.

The programme mainly focuses on three districts namely Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko currently hosting refugee camps although some interventions are also being carried out in other districts including Kigoma, Uvinza and Buhigwe.

KJP also builds on existing national programmes and lessons from other sub-national interventions. To the extent possible, KJP builds on national initiatives, such as National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), National Economic Empowerment Policy and Act, Agricultural Sector Development Plan II (ASDP 2), and National Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP). Under the Joint Programme, UN Tanzania provides a more strategic and coordinated response to the development priorities in the region

SEE

Health +

YWEE

Agriculture



VAWC

WASH

**Kigoma Joint
Programme**

Education

VILLAGE CHICKENS VACCINATION BOOSTS FARMERS' NUTRITION AND INCOME



A participant gives a vaccination against Newcastle disease to a chicken using a I-2 Vaccine in Kakonko a FAO training.

“My chickens will no longer die from Katilo, thanks to the support provided by the Kigoma Joint Programme in bringing the vaccination services closer to us”. This was said by Mr. Matayo Alberto, a poultry keeper and farmer from Nyamtukuza Ward in Kakonko District in Kigoma region. The results were realized after having managed to keep forty-three (43) chickens

to brooding stage which were all vaccinated during the first phase of the Newcastle Disease Vaccination programme in 2019.

With Newcastle Disease (locally referred to as “Katilo” in the Ha language) identified as one of the rampant contagious diseases affecting poultry in the District, it was eminent

that action had to be taken to curb the high mortality rate which is estimated at forty-three (43) percent each year. Reported cases of mortality have at times been caused by the tendency of farmers vaccinating their chicken with Lasota Vaccine, which requires cold storage throughout use and mostly contain a minimum dose of 1,000 chicks per vial. This contrasting with the I-2 Vaccine promoted under the vaccination programme, which is stable at room temperature and can easily be used from one community to the next.

According to the Kakonko District Council Livestock Officer, Mr. Revelian Rushehela, more than 70,000 local chickens are currently being reared in the district, providing countless opportunities for trade with neighbouring districts and across the border, to meet the high demand for consumption.

The district received 70,000 doses of I-2 master seed vaccine in support of a sustainable Newcastle Disease (NCD) vaccination programme and were able

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to vaccinate around 92 percent of the targeted chicks. This was achievable through the knowledge gained by 20 Field Extension Officers and thirty (30) community vaccinators during the Training of Trainers workshop conducted by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in January 2019 through the UN's Kigoma Joint Programme whose agriculture component is implemented by FAO, WFP, ITC and UNCDF.

"We are now certain of raising more chicken to maturity since the mortality rate has been reduced through use of vaccinations which prevent Katilo. Our community vaccinator lives in our village and whenever new chicks are hatched, we just give him a call to come and vaccinate our chicks," acknowledged Deogratias Semagongwa, a poultry keeper from Muhange Ward.

"It is a big saving," said Tunguru Busongye from Nyamtukuza Ward adding: "We used to travel 60 kilometers from this village to Kakonko to buy vaccines. Transport would cost twenty thousand shillings plus ten thousand for the vaccines. That vaccine was only valid for single use on one thousand

chicks, the rest would be discarded if you have less chicks." According to him, the distance and inability to store the vaccine, as well as associated costs was discouraging them from vaccinating their chickens regularly. "Under the current programme, we are spending only one hundred shillings per a chick and have also been educated on how to control worms," he disclosed. Ms. Suzana John, a trained Community Vaccinator on Good Animal Husbandry and the Newcastle Diseases control techniques, was equipped with tools to facilitate her work. "I can vaccinate up to one hundred chicks per day through conducting house-to-house visits in my village" she explained. Most of the farmers own mobile phones which enable them to call when in need of my services, she added.

With adherence to the vaccination calendar and use of funds accrued from the master seed, the District Council has been able to conduct a second phase of vaccination campaign. To date, twenty-five thousand (25,000) chicks have been vaccinated under the ongoing campaign. The District Livestock Officer also insisted that a strategy is in place at the border points

"My chickens will no longer die from Katilo, thanks to the support provided by the Kigoma Joint Programme in bringing the vaccination services closer to us".

**Mr. Matayo Alberto
Poultry Farmer**

whereby weekly markets are held (Muhange and Malenga Market), to ensure chickens are vaccinated prior to entering the country.

Mr. James Rulelekana, a Community Vaccinator of Kabare village in Gwarama Ward (thirty-six kilometers from Kakonko), collaborated with the Village Chairperson of the hamlet to mobilize farmers in need of the NCD vaccine. The message was conveyed to the community days before campaign and feedback provided to the community vaccinator.

Based on the agreed terms set by the District, each poultry keeper is required to pay one hundred shillings per chick

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/chicken for the service. From these funds, thirty-five shillings is returned to the District to purchase more vaccines and the remaining sixty-five shillings is given to the vaccinator as an incentive (mainly to cover time and costs incurred by the individual).

Beneficiaries are now assured of gaining nutritional benefits of eating eggs and chickens. Also, chickens vaccina-

tion programmes in the Districts have provided a nice boost to the incomes of community members, through selling eggs and chicken, which is among the fundamental focuses of Kigoma Joint Programme which attempts to improve the wellbeing of the people in the region.

During the launch of the Vaccination Campaign in 2019, Her Excellency Madam Elisabeth Jacobsen, Norwegian

Ambassador to Tanzania, expressed her desire to see a sustainable vaccination programme thriving in Kakonko, as well as other districts of the region. This dream has become a reality in Kakonko District and is one that can be emulated in other parts of the country, so the impact from raising healthy poultry can be realized by communities in contributing to increased household income, food security and nutrition.

AZIMIA WOMEN'S GROUP YES, WE CAN! HOW 16 WOMEN SCALED UP THEIR AGRI-BUSINESS IN KIBONDO



Azimia group chair, Penina Gota (left), with her team at their new agro-processing facility. The ladies are proud to have led the construction process of all their facilities

What can business skills training, support and ongoing mentorship do for small scale business owners in Tanzania? The 16 members of the Azimia Vicoba Women's Group from Kibondo in Kigoma will tell you it can do a lot.

Prior to being supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Kigoma Joint Programme under the Youth and Women Economic Empowerment (YWEE)

component, Azimia Vicoba functioned as a money savings and lending group.

While it was relatively effective in allowing the women to access small loans to support their households and small businesses, the women wanted to expand as a collective enterprise.

The group started work on a fish farming project in 2017 which failed to materialise due to flooding and lack of funding. Disappointed but choosing to persevere, the women diversified into poultry farming and other agricultural activities while looking for funding for their fish farming project. It wasn't long until they were selected by their Local Government Authority to apply for support and after an assessment of the groups eligibility, the group became one of the 12 other youth and women group enterprises to be supported by ILO and UNDP through grants and capacity development using the ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme coupled with continued mentorship.

Through the grants received from UNDP and ILO, the group has made



A member of the Azimia Group shows her group's chicken coup which is part of their successful mixed farming initiative in Kibondo District.

investments including the purchase of maize processing and milling machines, construction of the machine storage building and installation.

Mixed farming

Since receiving both the business skills training and funding from the Joint Programme, the group has made strides in expanding its activities through mixed farming.

The group's biggest farming initiative is fish farming which they re-launched in 2018 after being supported under

the YWEE component. The group was able to repopulate their pond with 1,400 fish who have since bred for 11 months. "At the moment we have no way counting how many fish are in the pond," says Adivela Tandika, 40, who oversees produce sales. "We can estimate that the number has at least doubled." The group expects to start selling the fish in two months and have set their price at Tsh 10,000 per fish. Since receiving bookkeeping and business skills training the women have a keen eye on turning in a profit. "It cost us Tsh 22,000 to feed the fish per month,"

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says the group accountant Betty John, 57, “we also pay about Tsh 100,000 per month for the two men we have hired to guard our two plots of land and pond at night.” Estimating their costs, the group is confident they will be making a profit in the coming months from their fish farming business alone.

Azimia Group also have a poultry farming business which allows them to sell chickens and eggs. They have previously sold 30 out of 67 chickens and sell 30 to 40 eggs per week. The income from eggs sales is often used to buy feed for the fish.

The group is currently finalising construction of their agricultural food processing facility and have invested their funds into purchasing maize processing machinery and building their processing site and offices. “We looked around our village and saw that members of our community travel long distances to other towns to clean and process their grain,” says group chair Penina Gota, 45. “We want to provide this service to our community, but eventually we also want to buy, process and package maize for sale at our

facility.”

Transformed lives

Apart from being members of Azimia Women’s Group the 16 members run their own smallholder farming businesses which they say have expanded since they have applied the skills, they received through training offered under the programme. “There has been a huge increase in my green vegetable farming business. The capacity development offered has taught me amongst others better ways to keep my records, costing keeping, as well as calculating my profits,” says Penina Gotta. Penina also adds that the responsibility she has as the group chairperson has allowed her to expand her skillset into various activities such as overseeing construction. She has supervised and budgeted for the group’s maize processing and office building which is in its final stages of construction.

Betty John, 57-year-old mother of four says her poultry farming business has expanded since she has been part of the programme support. She and her husband now have more resources to send their children to secondary school and university. “The training and advice

I have received has made me a better farmer. I would like to thank the programme for changing our lives.” Betty and her husband now have more than 100 chickens from an initial 20 before she joined the programme.

Looking to the future, the members of Azimia Women’s group are optimistic about expanding their mixed farming business into a full-fledged small-scale farming and processing enterprise. What they lacked in knowledge and skills as well as resources has largely been compensated through the programme. However, most importantly the women’s tenacity and ability to work as a team has allowed them to set a firm foundation for future success.

“This programme has transformed our lives, we were clueless about running a business before. Now we are on a path to running our own agricultural business,” says Adivela Tandika.

“This programme has transformed our lives, we were clueless about running a business before. Now we are on a path to running our own agricultural business”.

Adivela Tandika

HOW YOUTH AND WOMEN ARE GROWING THEIR BUSINESS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE KIGOMA JOINT PROGRAMME

Prior to being supported under the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) through the Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment (YWEE) theme, the 289 women and youth beneficiaries had very little access to economic knowledge and opportunities. For the women of Twiyambe Women's Group, an agricultural and events services enterprise, lack of access to knowledge and skills were the major obstacle to their personal and group empowerment. Group member Hidaya Mkiti recalls life before receiving support under the programme: "I had no sense of direction and no confidence. As a wife and mother, I didn't know how to manage my time to grow my business." Although Hidaya was busy with small scale farming activities (green vegetables) like many of her fellow women in Kigoma, she was still largely reliant on her husband for her and her three children's livelihoods.

Hidaya's story represents the reality for many group enterprises in Kigoma. To date five women's groups and seven youth led groups have received



The KJP has been the catalyst for the expansion of all the women and youth groups in the Kigoma region. Beneficiaries like Twiyambe Women's Group are part of 12 other women and youth groups who received enterprise training and financial support from the programme.

both financial and business development support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the KJP.

ILO built the capacity of beneficiaries through the ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) and Grow Your Business (GYB) tools and the groups have been linked with business grants

from the UNDP and ILO. The grants were used to facilitate business investments such as, purchase of honey processing machines and beehives, cassava processing machines, land and building materials for construction of warehouses amongst others.

Small scale women led enterprises like Hidaya's Twiyambe Group and youth

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led enterprises like Msuas Economic Development Group which manufactures wine from banana have used the YWEE as an opportunity to strengthen and implement their small business ideas. For members of the Twiyambe Women's Group, the funds were of immense help in expanding their rice farming and processing agri-business as well as kick starting their event planning business. Upon receiving business development and financial management skills training the group used some of their funds to purchase a rice processing machine and a small warehouse to process their rice crops. The group also used a portion of their YWEE grant funds to purchase 2 acres of land where they are in the process of constructing a large town hall and group office building. The business skills training they received through the YWEE component has sharpened their scope of thinking to other areas of opportunities.

"When we were trying to host some of our group gatherings and function, we saw there was a lack of venues for meetings and social engagements in our town (Kakonko). There is a town



Twiyambe Women's Group members at their grain processing facility/warehouse which is being constructed by funds received from UNDP and ILO through the Kigoma Joint Programme.

hall, but it is only open for a few hours and for certain events only. So, we decided to build a large and beautiful venue for people to rent out for all gatherings, weddings or workshops," says group member Shukuru Katibu. The group also offers event catering services for customers.

For the wine making group, Msuas Economic Development, the pro-

gramme is a continued source of skills acquisition and business upscaling. The group used their funds to send two members to Uganda to receive training from a wine making expert specializing in fermenting wine from ripe bananas. The majority of funds were then used to build the groups wine making warehouse including the construction of a borehole for a more cost effective and sustainable source of water.

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Group founder Grace Mkumbo, says the decision to construct their own water source is key to their future success: "After the training we received through the programme we sat down as a team and discussed the best way for us to cut costs and maximize our profits. The business management training really helped us to look carefully at our books to see which costs we can remove. We paid a lot of water bills as a drink manufacturing business, and we saw that if we want to keep growing, we will need to get a cheap source of water."

Change and Impact

The YWEE component of the programme has had a positive impact in the lives of its beneficiaries. Youth beneficiaries like Mathew Katibu, 24 from the wine making Msuaso Economic Development group had little prospects for employment after completing his high school education. He was also not able to attend university due to his family's financial constraints. After realising his dream of a higher education was not possible Mathew spent many months supported by his parents while he tried to find opportuni-



A member of the Msuaso Economic Development group demonstrating the process of fermenting wine from ripe bananas in the group's temporary space. The group is in the process of constructing a large production and storage facility for their wine and other products.

ties for self-employment. However, his lack of experience and business skills held him back. After joining the group and receiving financial and capacity building support, Mathew is now part of an expanding enterprise.

Catalyst for change

The YWEE programme has been the catalyst for the expansion of all the women and youth groups in the programme. Beneficiaries like Mathew and Grace report an improvement in the running of their business through

increased access to finance and financial education. Furthermore, small-scale farmers like Hidaya also report an improvement in their own private small-scale business by applying the knowledge they attained through YWEE training.

Empowered to grasp opportunities

Beneficiary groups also report an increase in problem solving skills as well as more attention to business opportunities.

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The SIYB/GYB training has given groups the skillset to scope out different business opportunities which they had previously overlooked or lacked the resources to undertake. Twiyambe Group's decision to provide a service (event centre) which was lacking in their community showcases this improvement in business savviness and acumen.

Better production

Beneficiary groups also report the scaling up of their business through the purchasing of possessing machinery and employment of workers outside the group. Twiyambe Group currently employs 6 workers including a security guard while the wine making group has increased their team of five members to include manufacturing assistants, security and distributors. Furthermore, both groups report an increase in production as they have begun to apply the teaching, they received during business development training. The wine-making group has been able to capitalize on the local market by manufacturing wines in different sizes and prices ranging from "Our demand at the moment is higher than we can



Members of the Msuasoo Economic Development group purchased wine processing machinery through funding support from ILO and UNDP through the Kigoma Joint Programme.

supply that is why we need to build a bigger manufacturing area and get our own water supply," says Grace. The group aims to produce 500-600 litres of wine per week once they have moved to their new facility which is under construction.

Opportunities for other members of the community

The groups supported through the KJP have made an avenue for other members of the society to benefit from the programme. For example, engaging new members, local contractors,

security guards just to name a few has created income sources for the society. With time, it is anticipated that the scale up of these businesses will increase more opportunities for locals in the target regions.

"I had no sense of direction and no confidence. As a wife and mother, didn't know how to manage my time to grow my business."

Hidaya Mkiti
Twiyambe Women's Group

VICTIMS VOICES: MY SMILE AND DREAMS RESTORED FROM BEING VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.

A 13-year-old boy Moses Martin (not real name), a Burundian by nationality, lived safely with his colleagues in a shelter supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kasulu district in Kigoma region Tanzania. The shelter house has been constructed for assisting victims of violence against women and children. Moses explains how he was rescued from being a victim of trafficking:

“I clearly remember the day a strange man approached my friend and asked us to assist him with some farm chores near the area where we were playing football with my friends. He approached us with sweet words promising us that he was going to pay us some money which could help us to cover some school needs. With his soft words we bought the idea of working for him believing that at the end of the day he will pay us some money. Blindly, we started to travel with him thinking that his farm was just near the place we were playing, at that time little did we know that he was taking us to an unknown destination in the middle of



A Senior Social Welfare Office from Kasulu Town Council, Mr. Godfrey Kapaya, sharing the achievements made so far on assisting victims of trafficking and survivors of different forms of violence through the IOM-supported shelter during a donor monitoring visit.

“I was so shocked and got scared that this time around this man would kill me”

**Moses,
Victim of Human Trafficking**

nowhere in Tanzania. We hardly could eat nor drink anything, this time round, and our hands were tied with ropes and our mouth covered with rags, hence could not do anything” added Moses. His friends were taken somewhere else and since then Moses could not trace their whereabouts.

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At the time, Moses was 10-years-old and at that young age he found himself forced to do cattle rearing and grazing with a promise of being paid Tsh 450,000 per year. He worked for two years (without being paid a single penny) before he could escape. His first attempt to escape failed when he tried to run to one of the villages in Kasulu district to seek help from one of the village leaders. To his disappointment, the village leader called Moses' host to come and pick him at his office "I was so shocked and got scared that this time around this man would kill me" said Moses.

Moses, being frustrated and weakened by the countless tasks assigned to him, never got weary of trying to escape for a second time. One opportunity day, he made his second attempt to escape and luckily manage to get away. A good Samaritan took him at the police station at Kasulu district. The police hurriedly contacted the District Social Welfare Officer who later referred Moses to a shelter supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kasulu district for assistance and protection services.



Literacy class that Moses was attending during his stay at the IOM-supported shelter.

The IOM which opened the shelter as part of the the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), together with Wote-sawa, the police, immigration, health workers social welfare played a vital role in ensuring Moses and other victims are supported at the shelter.

During his stay at the shelter, he received a psychosocial support including counselling, healthcare and literacy education, until his case was resolved

at the court.

"I am so happy that I am alive with good healthy and have been brought back to school. Recovery process was not easy for me at all. I thank everyone who has worked for my case, my dreams and smiles have been restored back, I am happy now and I have been brought back on track to pursue with my studies.

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I am thankful for the reintegration support I was granted during family reunification"-highlighted Moses.

IOM acknowledges the frontline workers for their coordination on assisting and responding to victims of trafficking and survivors of different forms of violence against women and children. This is one of the achievements following a series of capacity building initiatives by IOM under the Ending Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) component of the KJP which is funded by the Government of Norway.



A class that Moses is currently attending together with his fellow students at his home village.

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE IMPROVES BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AT SOFYA MARKET IN KASULU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kasulu District is one of the six districts of Kigoma Region in Tanzania. The main economic activity is subsistence farming and small and medium-scale businesses. For many years the district has been hosting several refugees coming from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC. The priority of the Tanzanian government is to support the development of Kigoma to become a trade hub with the neighbouring countries.

One of the incomes-generating activities for the majority of women in Kasulu District is the selling of farming products at various markets. At the markets, women would put their selling products on the ground, which negatively affects quality and hygiene of the products. In an effort to tackle this problem, the International Trade Centre (ITC), in collaboration with Kasulu Town Council under the Youth and Women Economic theme (YWEE) of the

Kigoma Joint Program (KJP), embarked on construction of stalls at Sofya Market to establish a safe and clean working environment for the entrepreneurs.

Products were left on the ground covered with plastic sheets and could easily be stepped by the passers-by. Selling products on the ground was not safe for sellers and buyers and products could easily be infected by harmful bacteria.

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Before the construction of the stalls, entrepreneurs these were the conditions under which entrepreneurs were selling their products at Sofya Market.

“Once the Sofya Market will be complete, I am pretty sure it will enable me to display and sell my products in a good hygiene environment, unlike the previous condition. It will also allow me to store my belongings on the constructed stalls to ease the stress of taking my products back-and-forth from home” said Mrs. Margreth Wilson Koko, one of the traders.

The Market aims to accommodate 1,120 traders, whom are mostly women. The completion of the market will assist entrepreneurs to up-scale their businesses from small to medium size. Previously, during rainy seasons, there would be a decrease in market activities due to the accumulation of water puddles caused by the poor infrastructures.

The new and improved Sofya Market will attract customers to visit the market while guaranteeing a safe and clean environment throughout the year, even during rainy season. In addition to that, most women and youth will have a safe environment for selling their products which in turn it will lead to higher incomes and this what the KJP in collaboration with the government intends to achieve.

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These 110 newly constructed stalls will provide a safer and cleaner business environment at Sofya Market.

THE POWER OF SAVING AND LENDING GROUPS AMONG REFUGEES IN NORTH WESTERN TANZANIA

The success of saving and lending groups to increase local community's income in Tanzania has encouraged development and humanitarian stakeholders to extend these services to more marginal areas, including people affected by protracted crisis. Refugees, immigrants and host communities are among the most vulnerable of these new target populations.

As part of a Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), under the Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment (YWEE) outcome, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is championing the formation and strengthening of savings groups complemented with digital and financial literacy for refugees and host communities. UNCDF is

also testing mechanisms for delivering financial and digital education using tablets, an SMS platform, short videos and supplementary face-to-face training sessions. Because participation in savings groups can facilitate and enhance inclusive social and economic development as well as cohesion, UNCDF supports these interventions,

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along with the necessary financial and digital literacy skills, in and around the three refugee camps in the Kigoma region, benefiting both the refugee and host communities, with a focus on women and youth.

In the story below, you will read about Sogambele savings group in Nyarugusu camp, and how the group comes in support of its members.

Sogambele group – Nyarugusu Camp

One year and a half year ago, though though the both lived in at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Stephanie did not know Lea, and neither of them knew Simeon, nor Enrique, nor Celine until they participated in a training about savings groups and the VICOBA methodology in a multipurpose training centre, which has been established just outside Nyarugusu camp as part of KJP-YWEE. This is just one of many services that the centre provides to the refugees and host communities.

At the centre, they were taught life skills, entrepreneurship, budgeting, savings and record-keeping. This is where, Stephanie narrates, she and



Members of Sogambele Savings Group mixing cassava pulp before making 'ugali' in Nyarugusu Refugee camp, in Kasulu district, Kigoma region.

the other 20 refugees met and had the idea to start a savings group and becoming entrepreneurs together.

As the result of the training offered by the programme, and operationalization of their savings group, the team could diversify the food rations in the camp, especially now that the common market is closed – a big challenge for this and other groups in and outside the camp. Part of what they earn is invested in borrowing equipment for processing cassava flour. The remain-

ing amount is distributed among the members for their personal and household-related expenses. Children's education is a priority.

The group meets every week for discussion on various matters but more importantly, to collect deposits from members. They deposit minimum TZS 200 every week (the maximum amount is TZS 1000) and share out every 9 months, which is the standard duration of a cycle.

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When they share out, not all the accumulated savings is disbursed. One part is deposited into a social fund, which is there to support the members during harder times such as paying for burial ceremonies and medical assistance.

Not only the 20 members of this group are in the same business and save together for emergencies, they discuss their personal struggles and are physically there when a member needs a hand to hold. Like when in a hospital bed.

One year and half after they first met, these 20 refugees are more resilient in a supportive family-like atmosphere.



Cassava flour being processed before being used to make 'ugali' by members of Songambe Savings Group in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp.

'OWNING SHARES OF THE COMPANY IS ONLY THE BEGINNING'

In this era of focusing on women empowerment and gender equality, it is inspiring to find a group of women from an informal sector engaged in local economic empowerment activities and owning shares of a Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).

Flora Nyabite, a 48-year-old mum of 3

from Katubuka -Kigoma Ujiji and other 17 members of Kazi Women Group, are getting in on entrepreneurship activities of buying, processing and selling fish and sardines. Flora says, "When we first started fish and sardines processing business, we never imagined we would one-day own shares in one of the successful factories in the region."

Like many other women in the Kigoma region, I wanted to be able to do something to support my family and pay school fees for our children.

In 2004, my friends and I decided to form a savings and lending group called Katubuka SACCOS.

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Our SACCOS aimed to accumulate capital through group savings, investments, and loan opportunities so that we, as members, can use it to improve our small businesses and hence increase our incomes to support our families. Of our initial three projects, one involved processing and selling fish and sardines, the second was on processing and selling vegetables and the third one on processing and selling soya milk. For the past 13 years we struggled to expand our projects in order to support our families, eventually things could not work out as some members left the group with unpaid loans.

So, the remaining members of the group and I started fixing the inefficiencies in leadership and membership. We also strengthened the group and recruited new members, including men. Then we changed the name of our group to the Kazi Women Group.

It happened that one of the shareholders of Petro and Sons Company Limited Mr. Machibya and Kazi Women Group heard about an opportunity through UNCDF under the Kigoma Joint Pro-



Members of Kazi Women's Group, shareholders of the Petro & Sons Company Limited, in Kigoma showing the final packaged product of dried sardines (know as 'dagaa') in Kiswahili. The women provide the raw sardines and also play a huge role in the value-addition process.

gramme (KJP) to apply for grants that will add on their capital to boost the production and income-generation. After applying, UNCDF agreed to support the project for both Petro and Sons and the Kazi Women Group under the condition that both parties agree on distribution of shares between the two parties. UNCDF interest was to improve the working environment of the members, including other women traders who use the facility. This partnership has led the Kazi Women Group to own 30 per cent of the company's shares.

"Owning shares was only the beginning of us members of Kazi Women Group benefiting from the project. We are all so happy and are seeing that the whole thing is bringing us positive energies and good income. Also, we used to sell 40-50 kilograms per day, but now during the high season we can sell up to 1,800 kilograms of sardines/ fish to other regions like Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Tabora, Arusha and Dodoma," Flora said proudly.

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About 69 new women entrepreneurs have been welcomed to join the company and are currently registered and have a contract with Petro and Sons as suppliers. "To me, I like this partnership, it has enabled other groups of women traders including the Kazi Women Group to spend less time selling supplies of sardines and fish," added FLora. She credits the UNCDF-support for the enormous success they are experiencing at the moment.

"Now that my group members and I

are part of this company and involved in the business, we feel confident and have greatly gained a sense of ownership. As for me, this business is allowing me and my family to make a living, buy school supplies for my children and pay school fees for my elder son, who is at the university. Moving forward, all I need to do is to work harder than before. As in this region, if you are a woman, you need to work hard to take care of yourself and support your family."

I urge all members in Kazi Women

Group to keep up the good work and strive for even higher success and last but not the least, I would like to give a huge thanks to UNCDF under the KJP for bringing this wonderful opportunity to Kigoma Region. Our families and community income has increased drastically, we can now afford to buy basic things that we could not afford prior to UNCDF's support, Flora Nyabite ends by saying "Asante sana UNCDF chini ya mpango wa pamoja wa maendeleo was KJP" literally means " Thanks very much to UNCDF under the Kigoma Joint Programme"

EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: KEY TO ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



Tushirikiane Women Group members in a photo at their project area where they have a pig farm

Women and youth are the most economic dependent people in Tanzania. Empowering these groups is very important to advance their growth so that they gain economic independence. To ensure this is realised, UNDP in collaboration with ILO are jointly supporting economic activities for Women and Youth Groups with a focus on access to finance for small scale investment.

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Some members of Ukhery group proudly posing at their 15 acres cassava farm



Kasulu Youth Revolution (Kayore) Group showcasing their products

In April 2019, 12 groups owned enterprises in Kasulu District Commission, Kasulu Town Council, Kibondo and Kakonko districts in Kigoma region went through a two days in-store coaching session to help them gain more knowledge and experience of doing business better and smart. The session touched on three specific areas: Business Model Development, Business Governance and Financial Management.

A hands-on approach was used which involved using real examples to ensure the participants gain a better under-

standing of what was being taught. The sessions were held inside the premises of the group enterprise in order to gain a better understanding of achievements and challenges being experienced on the ground. Where possible, the coach discussed with the suppliers who were on site and advised on different angles derived from the shared challenges. Challenges were noted and solutions proposed to ensure smooth running of their enterprises. This activity is under Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) on Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment (YWEE) component.

Groups Testimonies

The beneficiaries explained that the knowledge gained has helped them improve their group and individual businesses, including winning more trust and approval from male counterparts to engage in the group affairs than was before the support.

"I share the advice I get here with my husband back home; it helps me get permission to attend sessions and sometimes implement the advice I get from my group and sessions to my family"

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The groups expressed sincere appreciation for the support and promised to demonstrate good discipline and transparency in using the grant received to achieve the goals, especially after the coaching sessions. Through the support, the groups have become more

known in their communities and many more women and youth are attracted to join. The Youth Groups have a lot of work to do and expressed their gratitude to UNDP and ILO for providing them the grant that will fuel them to eradicate poverty, hunger and improve their lives.

Based on its focus and impacts, this intervention is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG1), which focuses on Poverty eradication and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) focusing on Zero Hunger.

SAFE SPACE-TUSEME YOUTH CLUBS EMPOWERING STUDENTS IN KASULU DISTRICT

Student-led Youth Clubs in Kasulu district provided girls and boys with the skills they require to speak out on the challenges that hinder their successful schooling and general wellbeing. The initiative is part of the Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education in Tanzania component of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) which is being funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) funded and is being implemented in collaboration with UN Women and UNFPA.

In 2019, UNESCO, in partnership with the Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania Chapter (FAWETZ) conducted training to establish Safe Space-TUSEME (which translates to 'Let

us speak out') Youth clubs in Kasulu. As a result, 60 clubs were established in 10 primary and 5 secondary schools of selected wards - Heru-ushingo, Titye, Nyakitonto, Nyamyusi and Rungwe Mpya. More than 1,000 female and 452 male students joined with 120 teachers as mentors.

The range of training on life skills provided to the students include communication and leadership, human rights, sexual reproductive health, violence against women and children, entrepreneurship skills. The life skill knowledge acquired will help students promote a safe learning environment and ultimately to integrate in society as active and responsible citizens. After the training, they were encouraged to initi-

ate peer-led activities within the school setting.

The project team visited the Nyakitonto Secondary school in July 2019 after a few months of the training to listen to the experience of students and teachers. Ms. Angel Kayego, a club member said that, "Girls' confidence has increased. It seems sexual relations amongst students has decreased. Even bullying from senior students to junior students dropped. In pursuit of good grades, fewer students go to the night markets and video screening cafes."

The club mentor, Mr. Emmanuel Mapinda, also found out that students gained more confidence from the training for Safe Space-TUSEME club.

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Angel Kayego, a student member, sharing what changes have been made in the school since the establishment of the Safe Space - TUSEME clubs.



A Group photo of the Safe Space - TUSEME Youth Club members from Nyakitonto Secondary school along with their club patrons.

He added, female students are more actively participating in class and school activities with increased confidence.

By meeting regularly on Fridays, club members are planning their activities for the upcoming semester. One club will focus on enhancing entrepreneurship skills through soap making and selling. They plan to hire an instructor for soap making by using micro capital provided during the training.

Another club will reinforce peer support. Each member student will men-

tor five students who are not club members. In various art forms including drama, club members will disseminate key messages during morning assembly hours to remind on the negative effects of night markets, video screening cafes, teenage pregnancies, truancy and early childhood marriage to successful schooling.

Synergized with the community sensitization on the existing legal and regulatory framework that supports girls' education conducted in Decem-

ber 2018 from the same project, these immediate changes among students mobilized strong support from the school board and community members to facilitate their planned activities.

The established youth club will function as a safe and motivational platform for school students. Mr. Kiondo, the second master teacher, expects his students to think creatively and innovatively on how to mitigate various challenges facing them in and out of schools.

“A SKILL FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR CAMP LIFE” – MEET THE GNTZ SOAP MAKING GROUP



Students of the Multi-Purpose Community Centre (MPCC) outside Nyarugusu Refugee Camp who have been trained in soap-making with one of their facilitators from Good Neighbours. The MPCC is managed by UNHCR and was constructed with support from KOICA and Norway.

NyNyarugusu refugee camp is one of the largest refugee camps in Tanzania. It is located in the western province of Kigoma, Tanzania, about 150 km east of Lake Tanganyika.

There has been an insufficient supply of soap in the camp, despite regular distributions, the available supply meets around half the demand of the 145,000 residents' daily washing and

laundry needs. A group of ten people comprising Burundian and Congolese refugees and members of the local community decided to tackle the problem head on and formed the GNTZ Soap Making Group.

The Group was trained in the art of soap making by UNHCR's partner, Good Neighbours Tanzania, in a project under the Kigoma Joint Programme

(KJP).

Half of the 30 trainees in the Soap Making Group's cohort were Tanzanian and half were refugees. When the six-month course was over, they were equipped with startup kits to begin making soap independently. The Group pooled their resources, and business began, selling soap in the camp and nearby villages.

Business boomed. Within two months, they had turned a profit of Tsh 1,067,400 (approximately USD 464).

For the Soap Making Group, the project is about more than just about earning an income. It's also a chance to empower themselves, take care of their families, and make a contribution to the broader community. The Group aims to promote and support good sanitary practices in the camps and local community by providing good quality, affordable hygiene products.

The GNTZ Soap Making Group supplies soaps in Nyarugusu and nearby villages. Desus Mzima,

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a Tanzanian citizen living near Nyarugusu camp, is the Group's Treasurer. "We sell for both wholesale and retail," Desus explains. "We don't make a big profit, but we earn enough to take care of our families. Through our work we also get to meet people from different backgrounds and exchange ideas."

"There is no difference between us," he continues. "This project brought us together, and together we learn, and share knowledge and skills. You cannot tell who a refugee is and who is a Tanzanian. We are equals and help one another. We all have the same goal -

a better life for our families." For the Group's Chair, Congolese refugee Misimbano Balongwerwa, the work brings some fundamental benefits, too. "Since we began making soaps, we are no longer dependent on the monthly food distributions to feed our families. We buy vegetables, fish and meat, and eat different things every day," he says. "We don't have a normal life, but we are not just surviving either."

"This is a skill for life, not just for camp life," Misimbano adds with a smile.

Not content to rest on their laurels, the Group wants to expand production to

meet seasonal needs. The weather in Kigoma is very dusty during dry season and muddy during rainy season, leading to increased demand for affordable, quality soap.

There are many projects like this one under the KJP, providing support to the diverse members of the Kigoma community. Bringing together people from the refugee and host communities with a common aim, this project aims to promote social cohesion while empowering the trainees with new life skills and a new means of providing for their families.

KIGOMA JOINT PROGRAMME EMPOWERS SMALLHOLDER FARMERS ON POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE

Post - harvest food losses among smallholder farmers in Tanzania ranges up to 30-40% in most of the regions. Kigoma region being one the affected regions, farmers do experience this challenge in their post - harvest seasons. These losses have had negative effects on food security, nutrition and hunger, especially for subsistence farmers who receive most of

their annual income from one harvest. Post - harvest food losses are typically the result of poor handling and storage practices and are mostly preventable.

This is why WFP and other UN agencies are working to help smallholder farmers reduce their losses through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP).

"The training was an enormous help, not just for me, but for the community," said Amoni Mtenzi, a KJP beneficiary from Kabingo in Kakonko District. "Before the training, we were farming the only way we knew, the same way we always had. Post-harvest losses were just part of it. But now we have control and can take back the whole harvest."

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This included facilitating farmers to purchase almost 2,000 tarpaulins and over 6,000 hermetically sealing bags. The tarpaulins give farmers a clean space for threshing and drying the maize while the hermetic bags allow the farmers to safely store maize for up to two years without worry of contamination from pests or moulds – two of the most common causes of post-harvest losses. The hermetic bags also give farmers increased control over when they sell

their grain. This means they do not have to sell maize shortly after harvest when prices are the lowest. Rather, they can sell in the following months when prices can more than double.

More income means farmers can get a head and reinvest in diversified crops or livestock which helps to build resilience at both the home and community levels. Resilience for smallholder farmers is key with their dependence on rain-fed agriculture making them

vulnerable to shocks such as droughts or infestations. Even this year, many farmers under KJP had smaller harvests than usual because of an outbreak of fall armyworms.

“The small harvest was a challenge, but it’s great that I can keep the harvest I did manage and that I don’t have to worry about further losses,” said Jacob Kifige another KJP beneficiary from Kabingo.



Mr & Mrs Jacob Chungano, members of 'Umoja ni Nguvu' group at Kibingo village in Kakonko district, enjoying their maize stock which has been stored in hermetic bags for a period of 4 months without using chemicals. They used this storage modality after getting a training on post-harvest handling and storage and linked to equipment suppliers by WFP through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP).



Ms. Grace Mhoza at Kiyobela Village in Kakonko district doing hand shelling of maize with the support of tarpaulin to avoid direct contact with soil. After attending post-harvest handling and storage training by WFP through the KJP, the majority of farmers are now using tarpaulins when shelling and drying to avoid direct contact with soil to maintain the quality and add value to crops.

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